

If the Democrats won't come un-  
with decent candidates, then sit the  
election out and let them see if they  
can win without labor support.

The power to withhold our support  
from any candidate of either party can  
well be as effective an argument with  
party leaders as our voting power to  
elect a good candidate.







# Faster Army Build-Up, Higher Wages Urged by AFL for Europe

Montreal, Canada.—The AFL Executive Council called for a faster buildup of western Europe's armies and for an improved standard of living for workers in those countries.

The Council urged increased measures immediately to lower the cost of living to increase workers' purchasing power, enactment of a more equitable tax program especially against the employers of France, Italy and Germany who are best able to pay, and greater unification of the European economy.

The Council advocated stronger action by governments in France and Italy to break the Communist Party's reign of terror against workers and citizens.

It rejected pacts with Franco, Peron and similar dictators as "weakening the unity of the democratic world."

The Council supported the changes in the Economic Cooperation Administration to assist European employers and workers to increase productivity.

"The full participation of the trade unions at all stages is essential to meet this objective," the Council said.

Following is the text of the AFL Executive Council statement on European problems:

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, having received the report of the delegates to the International Conference of Free Trade Unions Congress in Milan, notes with pride the great progress made by the forces of the free international labor movement as contrasted to the continuing decline of the Soviet controlled WFTU.

Since the founding Congress of the ICFTU in London in December 1949, there has been a gain of over 3 million in membership, bringing the present total of the ICFTU to over 52 million members from 80 trade union organizations in 60 countries of the

## Ask Heavier Tax on Employers of France, Italy and Germany

world. As contrasted to this progress of the free labor world, the Soviet dominated WFTU has continued to lose affiliations in such major areas as Australia, New Zealand, Finland, North Africa, Israel and Iceland.

We realize, however, that the world situation remains extremely critical. Soviet aggression and the continuing threat of new aggressions impose upon the democratic world the necessity to re-arm. This has led to serious consequences for the workers of western Europe. That is why the growing strength of the Atlantic Pact Nations is greatly compromised and hindered by continuing Communist strength in the labor movements of France and Italy, although there has been a great decline since the peak years of 1946 to 1947.

To overcome this remaining Communist Party influence in the critical areas of western Europe, to continue the upward swing of western Europe confidence and strength, and to defeat the enemies of democracy in the critical areas of France and Italy, it is imperative that the following things be done:

1. The beginnings of a growing feeling of strength in western Europe amongst the democratic forces must be reinforced by an increased rate of the building of the west's European army and arms.

2. Greater unification of the European economy, both civil and military, which would permit not only the building up of our defenses but the con-

tinued expansion of the workers' standard of living.

3. Increased measures must be taken immediately to prevent inflation and lower the cost of living so as to increase the workers' purchasing power—or at the very least prevent its further deterioration. Such a program must be reinforced by an equitable tax system which is enforced especially against those who are most able to pay and who are not today paying—namely, the employers of France, Italy and Germany.

4. The democratic labor forces must through united action offer a progressive program which can provide an attractive alternative for the great number of workers who have deserted the ranks of the CP-controlled unions of France and Italy.

5. The governments of such countries as France and Italy must take immediate measures to prevent the CP reign of terror which still exists in many industrial centers and acts as a check on the further expansion of the non-Communist trade unions. As long as trade unionists who have finally broken with the CP in France and the CGIL in Italy feel that local government authorities as well as employers are either afraid or unwilling to break the CP strategy of terror, this remains as the greatest brake on the further advance of workers in France and Italy towards joining the non-Communist trade unions.

6. Reliance on pacts with Franco, Peron and similar dictators must be rejected as weakening the unity of the democratic world and offering to Stalin an excellent opportunity to counter and undermine the western world's moral and physical rearmament program.

These proposals must be further implemented by new economic measures in the ECA program for western Europe. We of the American Federation of Labor have consistently supported the Marshall Plan since its inception in 1947 and the Executive Council is convinced that the progress made toward economic recovery vindicates this position.

The Executive Council desires to emphasize, however, that the defense of the democratic way of life cannot be secured by armaments alone. The efforts of the Marshall Plan to improve the standards of living in European nations so that the benefits of economic and political democracy can be enjoyed by all those who are called upon to defend it must be re-emphasized. Low wages and high prices resulting in too low standards of living still are all too prevalent, especially in the key countries of France and Italy.

The Executive Council, therefore, supports the aims and purposes of the recently announced program of the ECA to assist European employers and workers to increase productivity. The program must be one that will guarantee that the benefits of increased productivity be equitably shared by workers and consumers. The full participation of the trade unions at all stages is essential to meet this objective.

The efforts of the ECA and the Organization for European Economic Cooperation and all the participating country governments to broaden markets through such agencies as the European Payments Union and the Schumann Plan and through the reduction of restrictive trade practices and the economic integration of Europe must be redoubled.

The Executive Council calls upon the affiliated unions of the AFL to make available the skills and knowledge of American workers wherever they can be helpful to their fellow workers in Europe in improving their conditions through increased productivity.

The Productivity Assistance Program created and operated with the full participation of the free trade unions of Europe and America within the framework of a free and expanding economy is the only guarantee of improved workers' living standards and of the defense of our common freedom.

## FOODS HIGHER

Washington.—Foods purchased for \$1 a year ago now cost \$1.123.

The U. S. Department of Labor said this cost of living index for food prices stood at 228.5, seven-tenths of 1 percent higher than a month earlier and 124 percent above a year ago. The index is placed under "price controls" which have now been killed or weakened by the Republican-Dixiecrat Defense Production Act.

## "UNION MAID"



Washington.—One of the new Union Maid cartoons distributed to labor newspapers by AFL News Service.

## Mitchell Calls Mexican Labor Pact a 'Fraud'

Washington.—The United States put into effect Aug. 11 an agreement with Mexico under which 100,000 to 200,000 Mexican nationals will be brought to this country for temporary farm work.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin called the agreement "an outstanding example of intergovernmental cooperation."

President H. L. Mitchell of the AFL National Farm Labor Union condemned it as a "gross fraud and deceit worked out by wily government lawyers and stratosphere diplomats."

The agreement was negotiated under the terms of the bill passed by Congress in July which permits big farmers to exploit Mexican nationals and which denies American standards of work and wages to native Americans.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that President Truman had signed the bill despite appeals from the AFL and CIO for a veto. He said in part:

"U. S. negotiators returned from Mexico with a document that permits the employment of Mexican nationals in food processing, lumbering and machine operation on irrigation canals. "Following the signing of the bill by Mr. Truman, the State and Labor Departments rushed me to Mexico City to begin negotiations. President William Green of the American Federation of Labor formally requested official representation for organized labor in the negotiations. This was denied by the Department of State. No labor representatives attended any of the negotiations.

"The result is that an unfair, if not an unworkable agreement has been ne-

gotiated. It is obviously a document prepared by shrewd lawyers attempting to meet the requirements of the corporation farmers who want cheap labor from Mexico to exploit."

## WSB Approves Deferred Raises

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board approved "deferred" wage increases negotiated by many AFL unions.

WSB previously had approved cost-of-living escalators but delayed an okay for deferred raises of varying amounts which many unions had negotiated in 1950 to take effect at various dates in 1951, 1952 and 1953.

WSB said it would approve "deferred increases" granted to employees before last Jan. 25, provided the increases would not have an unbalancing effect on other wages and thereby create a basis for more widespread adjustments.

The new policy affects 500 or more pending cases, but the board was not able to say how many employees or how much money was involved.

While some unions were negotiating cost-of-living "escalator" contracts in 1950, others negotiated a flat sum, part of which was effective at the time of the settlement and part at a later date. The "freezes" intervened and the issue of the "deferred increases" has been pending since. Eric Johnston, Economic Stabilization Administrator, approved the new policy.

## FAVOR U.S. BUYING FUNDS BE USED TO RAISE LATIN-AMERICAN WAGES

Montreal, Canada.—The AFL Executive Council strongly urged that the special prices above the world market levels which the United States is paying in Latin America for defense materials be used primarily for better work and wage standards in those countries.

Following is the text of the AFL Council statement:

The Executive Council is greatly concerned with the problems arising from continued low standards of living in Latin America, which provide fertile ground for the growth of Neo-Fascist totalitarian movements and give the Communists opportunity to renew their efforts to regain lost positions.

We believe that the strengthening of the free labor movement offers the best guarantee that totalitarian forces will not prevail, and therefore renew our pledge of active cooperation with the free trade unionists of Latin America in their endeavor to raise the standards of living of their respective peoples.

In this connection, the Executive Council strongly urges that the special prices above the world market levels which the United States government is paying in Latin America for materials which are needed for our defense stockpiling be used primarily for better work and wage standards.

At the same time, we reaffirm our opposition to the granting of economic aid of any form to those Latin American governments which have suppressed civil liberties and are denying the free exercise of trade union organization and action.

## AFL Supports ECA Aid For Europe's Workers

Montreal, Canada.—The AFL Executive Council advocated "new economic measures" to speed up the operation Administration program for Western Europe.

ECA proposed in its request for \$21 billion now before Congress that it engage in a broad productivity program to raise the wages of workers and cut prices of goods in ECA countries.

The National Association of Manufacturers has come out against the program in a typically selfish, shortsighted denunciation that it amounts to government interference with the right of employers to bleed workers and consumers of their last cent.

"We of the American Federation of Labor have consistently supported the Marshall Plan since its inception in 1947 and the Executive Council is convinced that the progress made toward economic recovery vindicates this position," the Council said.

"The efforts of the Marshall Plan to improve the standards of living in European nations so that the benefits of economic and political democracy can be enjoyed by all those who are called upon to defend it must be re-emphasized.

"Low wages and high prices result-

ing in too low standards of living still are all too prevalent, especially in the key countries of France and Italy.

"The Executive Council, therefore, supports the aims and purposes of the recently announced program of the ECA to assist European employers and workers to increase productivity.

"The program must be one that will guarantee that the rewards of increases in productivity be equitably shared by workers and consumers. The full participation of the trade unions at all stages is essential to meet this objective.

"The Executive Council calls upon the affiliated unions of the AFL to make available the skills and knowledge of American workers wherever they can be helpful to their fellow workers in Europe in improving their conditions through increased productivity.

"The Productivity Assistance Program created and operated with the full participation of the free trade unions of Europe and America within the framework of a free and expanding economy is the only guarantee of improved workers' living standards and of the defense of our common freedom."



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